

Global Scholars Academy (GSA) Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 20, 2020
Held via Zoom at 6 p.m.
Meeting was called to order by Dr. James Johnson at 6:02 p.m.

Open and Welcome

Roll Call of Members: Ms. Amy Noble

Board Members Present via phone/Zoom: Dr. James Johnson, Dr. Tawannah Allen, Mr. William Smith, Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell, Mrs. Shelton Gore, Dr. Sandra White, Mr. Kirk McCoy

Board Members Absent: Dr. Zakiya Whatley, Dr. Linda Bass, Ms. Tammie Hall

Non-Board Members Present: Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Ms. Brittany Curry, Mrs. Eboni Alexander, Ms. Jamie Nobles, Ms. Amy Noble, Mrs. Bettie Lyons, Ms. Deborah Amos, Ms. Marlisha Blakeney, Mrs. Lesli Bryant, Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas, Ms. Rita Wells, Ms. Andrea Graham, Ms. Rebekah Barr, Ms. Miranda Markham, Ms. Kendra Johnson, Mr. Leland Davis, Ms. Lakeisha Holliday, Mrs. Sherry King, Mrs. Wilishia Bettis-Farrington, Ms. Vanessa Viscarra, Mrs. Allison Crews, Mrs. Jasmine Pointer, Ms. Ana Alvarado

Dr. James Johnson stated for the record that Mr. Brian Wilson has moved out of state and has resigned his position on the GSA Board.

Agenda Approval

The agenda for today's meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Sandra White and a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Public Input

None

Review Minutes

The Board minutes from Tuesday, September 15, 2020 were unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell and a second by Mr. William Smith.

Presentations Ms. Rebekah Barr

The Finance Committee met with Ms. Rebekah Barr on Friday. Ms. Rebekah Barr presented the drafted audit report. There are no findings again this year. Standard unmodified report. Clean opinion for 2020. \$408,990 - total net position. She shared the statement of activities ending on June 30, 2020. No compliance issues.

A motion to accept the financial statements presented by Ms. Rebekah Barr for June 30, 2020 for GSA with the corrections needed to make with the MDA to make sure the restricted and unrestricted funds match up with what she has in the report was unanimously approved following a motion by Mr. William Smith with a second by Mr. Kirk McCoy.

A move to approve the financials was unanimously approved following a motion by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell with a second by Mr. William Smith.

Standard Reports:

Amy Noble – Executive Admin. Asst. to Head of School/Office Manager Enrollment

Update since slide was created. Current enrollment stands at 196.

We have a 49/51 percent split male vs. female scholars in the school. Our population is 51% African American, 48% Hispanic, and 1% Mixed Race. Since the slide was created, one middle school scholar moved to a school offering sports and one scholar moved out of state. Dr. Pam Baldwin indicated the State will pay us by the ADM from last year. Regarding the number of EC scholars - some have already tested and some need to test.

Dr. Pam Baldwin – Head of School Academic Reports

Dr. Pam Baldwin welcomed the following new staff to GSA:

First grade teacher - Kendra Johnson

EC teacher - George Koop

EC teacher - Jennifer Kidd

21st CCLC Program Director - Leland Davis

90 Day Needs Assessment

Dr. Pam Baldwin presented the findings and recommendations of her needs assessment.

She shared information regarding:

- Demographics
- Special Populations
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Strengths
- Curriculum and Instruction
- Professional Development
- Programs and Positions
- Support Services
- Budget and Finance
- Identified Needs
- Intentionality
- Core Values
- Her Next Steps

Dr. Sandra White is extremely excited about information and ideas presented.

Dr. Tawannah Allen is thrilled to hear about looking at a different way of identifying students for AIG students. Looking toward moving GSA to being a flagship/model school for the State.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell agrees with the other comments. She also asked how do you measure STEM and STEAM? Is there an overall plan on how long it will take to implement these new ideas? Will we be able to offer both Spanish and Mandarin?

Dr. Pam Baldwin answered with being strategic on how we implement the effects of STEM and STEAM and sees it in a several year strategic plan. Would like to start transforming our spaces and providing ways for teachers to use these spaces and then moving forward with partnerships. In the future, we would like to offer Spanish in addition to Mandarin.

Dr. James Johnson is connecting Dr. Pam Baldwin with Mr. Wendell Davis - Durham County Manager - would like to see a formal relationship with GSA and taking advantage of their state-of-the-art facility.

Mrs. Shelton Gore is excited to see middle schoolers presenting with math challenges and introduce early on.

Tech Stewardship

Dr. Pam Baldwin presented the Help Desk Summary

Verizon Summary - we received some additional hotspots and Dr. Pam Baldwin will send some follow up information regarding this.

Information regarding Zoom Usage at Low, Medium, and High Rate was also presented.

Brittany Curry – Dir. of Development, Marketing, and Communications Fundraising Updates

She presented the Fundraising Tracker including what has been received and what is still outstanding. We found out today a NASA STEM program GSA applied for was awarded for our extended day program! Not a financial payment, they will provide the programming.

As we go into next month, Ms. Brittany Curry will give a full update on what is being planned for the 10-year anniversary.

Kenan Charitable Trust - Individual donation from Mr. Tom Kenan based on discussion of needs. These are unrestricted funds.

Dr. Sandra White spoke about Tithe the Tithe – a program that a church in Virginia is doing. It just passed \$1 million dollar mark for giving to the community. It may be worthwhile looking into this program.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell asked for additional information regarding the NASA grant.

Ms. Brittany Curry shared that NASA is working with afterschool programs across the country. The program presents real world, problem-based challenges for our scholars.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Dr. Pam Baldwin presented a proposal for Return to School for the rest of our scholars and indicated the need for an official vote from the Board tonight.

She detailed information regarding:

- Information from State leadership
- Plan options for NC schools
- The GSA plan for grades 3-5 and staff members with a return to the building November 2 following the current, in-building A/B schedule. As of today, about 20 responses from families to have their scholar return to the building.
- The GSA plan for grades 6-8 and relevant staff members with a return to the building January 11 following the current, in-building A/B schedule.
- Considerations and Next Steps for January

These plans hinge on how things are trending in the State and adhering to State and CDC guideline. The fall back strategy is Plan C = 100% virtual.

A discussion was had regarding plans if a teacher is unable to return to the building at this time and coverage is needed.

New technology needs will arise to better assist teachers and scholars while working remotely.

Ms. Brittany Curry indicated that the ESSER grant funds can be used for this - GSA has submitted a competitive grant for these funds. The ESSER funds are restricted funds coming down from the Federal CARES Act through the State.

GSA has submitted a competitive grant for the iCARES grant, an additional arm of the CARES Act, which could also help. COVID-19 funds continue to come down from the State.

As of today, the number of scholars interested in coming back in November:

3rd - 4 scholars

4th - 8 scholars

5th - 8 scholars

The K-5 parent meeting is coming up on Monday.

K-2 teachers and instructional assistants have been working hard to successfully be in the building.

Dr. James Johnson is interested in determining how challenging it is for our parents to provide transportation and struggling without a job or safety net. Then, it becomes a data point when we look at fundraising.

Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell expressed how much the Board appreciates all the effort and hard work of the staff. "We understand and we are all working together in a team effort and we appreciate the leadership of Dr. Pam Baldwin."

The Return to School proposal as presented by Dr. Pam Baldwin was unanimously approved following a motion by Dr. Tawannah Allen and a second by Dr. Sandra White.

Jamie Nobles – Accountant Financial Reports

Ms. Jamie Nobles presented the topline tracker for the first quarter. Everything is trending well and no major concerns.

Cash Balance as of September 30 - At the last Board meeting it was voted to move some reserve funds. That transfer has been made.

Key Updates - No major variances in revenue or expenses.

GSA has received \$2,016 year to date from giving at Union Baptist Church.

The Finance Committee met this past week. They will be meeting monthly the week before the Board Meeting. Mr. William Smith detailed the agenda topics:

- RFP for banking services - looking at moving banking from Wells Fargo. We hope to have in place by next school year.
- Reviewed the Thomas and Gibbs agreement
- Reviewed the Self Help Credit Union application – the reserve money will be placed here.
- Rent from Union Baptist Church - asked to increase rent. GSA countered back to do \$1000 a month each month until new school year.
- Finance Committee excited to work with Dr. Pam Baldwin on next year's budget.

Budget Amendment packet – We needed to match the budget versus what we will actually receive. This year the need was to support our EC scholars.

Adjust budget to what the Federal government says we will receive for funds

PRC 50 - Title 1 - need this year to support ESL students

PRC 60 - EC - a bit less than we got last year

PRC 163 - CARES Act - no changes

PRC 103 - Title 2 - will be getting \$24k this year - will go toward salaries in EC and professional development for them

PRC 108 - Title Funds – we have received the last 2 years and will receive the same amount this year.

PRC 110 - 21st Century - blueprint of how we plan to spend the first year of the funds

PRC 35 - School Nutrition - no big changes

New revenue number is \$3,425,331.

Expenses are \$3,653,499.

Budget Amendment #3 - Since we got an increase in Federal dollars increased budget by \$173k. Our expenses went from being paid by State funding to being paid by Federal dollars. We were able to reduce the amount coming out of the reserve from \$284,949 down to \$228,168.

A big impact from the savings is because of the CARES Act.

A motion was made by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell for approval of the budget amendment and to accept the financials as tendered and a second by Mr. Kirk McCoy. Motion carries.

Forward Thinking

Save the Date! Upcoming Dates were shared.

GSA Highlights – Counselors – *LaKeisha Thomas & Lesli Bryant*

Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas and Mrs. Lesli Bryant gave a Social and Emotional Learning presentation.

Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas gave an update about current social and emotional learning at GSA. Based on CASEL 5 Framework, we provide morning meetings to see how our scholars are feeling and creates positive conversations and build rapport with scholar. We also have character education trait each month that the teachers incorporate into the classroom to promote social and emotional learning there.

We have weekly Social and Emotional lessons (SEL) during Passion Fridays and during our quarterly awards ceremonies.

SEL is also incorporated in our Professional Development.
Staff have received PREPaRE Crisis and Response Training

Mrs. Lesli Bryant discussed results from Grades K-4 family surveys.

We received a total of 26 responses.

Based on the findings, the biggest need was for food provisions. Mrs. Lesli Bryant followed up with families to make sure they were given resources.

Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas discussed results from Grades 5-8 family surveys.

We received a total of 8 responses.

Based on the findings, the biggest need was also for food assistance. She also followed up with families for food resources.

Mr. LaKeisha Thomas presented the Middle School Scholars Needs Assessment for their emotional state. Our scholars are resilient. Based on results, Mrs. LaKeisha Thomas incorporated any additional needs into her SEL lessons with the scholars. Regarding Needs/Resources, the scholars did not have additional needs.

GSA is still in the process of figuring out how to make the counseling program most effective in a hybrid environment to make sure we meet the needs of our scholars' and families.

Adjournment for Closed Session:

A motion was made by Mr. William Smith to go into Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes under the North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) at 7:57 p.m. Second by Hairston Mitchell.

Open Session:

A motion was made to go back into Open Session by Mr. William Smith at 8:46 p.m. with a second by Mrs. Dorothy Hairston Mitchell.

Adjournment

Mr. William Smith made motion for the Board meeting to adjourn with a second by Dr. Sandra White. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.